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## Santa Rosa building a petting zoo with assistance of Elezir Halfway House



Gino Frans, founder of Elezir, Minister, Patrizia Portier, project mgr and Nathalie Maduro

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport, Labor & Industry, Otmar Oduber, visited the Santa Rosa Center of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry yesterday morning to endorse their cooperative program with the Elezir Rehabilitation Center for Substance Abuse and commend them on its effectiveness.

Patrizia Portier, Project Manager for Santa Rosa for a special petting zoo that will become a part of the center with Nathalie Maduro, welcomed Minister Oduber, along with the founder of Elezir, Gino Frans.

Gino explained that the Elezir program and center, which has proved very suc-

cessful in Holland and Colombia, was established on Aruba 2 years ago. The halfway house has 30 residents, of which 10 come to work daily at the Santa Rosa Center to construct the new section for children in rotating shifts. The residents report they find it very satisfying to contribute to the community in this manner, and they are proud of their work.

Gino commented this is exactly the purpose of such programs, as they assist Elezir residents to overcome addictions, increase self-esteem, and become productive members of the community.

*Continued on page 4*



Get out of your shell with a turtle



Minister Oduber with Gino Frans, Nathalie Maduro, Patrizia Portier and workers from Elezir

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## Plutonium detected in soil at Japan nuclear plant



SENDAI, Japan (AFP) – Plutonium has been detected in soil at a stricken nuclear plant in Japan and highly contaminated water has leaked from a reactor building, the operator said Monday, fanning environmental fears.

Radiation worries have disrupted efforts to restart the cooling system of the

Fukushima Daiichi plant, which was battered by a huge earthquake and tsunami on March 11 that left more than 28,000 people dead or missing.

With Japan struggling to contain its worst ever atomic crisis, France said its nuclear groups Areva and EDF had been asked to help.

Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said plutonium was found at five spots within the crippled facility, but stressed the levels were not believed to be a hazard to human health.

"Of the samples from five locations, we believe that there is a high possibility that at least two of them are directly linked with the current reactor accident," a spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. said.

But he added: "We believe

the level is not serious enough to harm human health."

The level of plutonium was similar to that detected in Japan after neighbouring countries such as North Korea and China conducted nuclear experiments, the spokesman said.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said it was unclear which reactor the plutonium came from.

According to the US environmental protection agency, external exposure to plutonium poses "very little health risk", but internal exposure "is an extremely serious health hazard."

Plutonium is formed from uranium in nuclear reactors and generally stays in the body for decades, exposing organs and tissues to radiation and increasing the risk of cancer, it said.

## Libya to soon be 'liberated' from Kadhafi: Rome



ROME, Italy (AFP) - Libya will soon be "liberated" from Moamer Kadhafi, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said on Monday, adding that the strongman could give up power under an African Union proposal.

"I think that Libya will be liberated quickly and that the situation will be resolved in short notice," Frattini said on La7 television.

"In the UN resolution no violent collapse of the regime" is foreseen, but there is "an implicit pre-condition, unwritten, that I read as: Kadhafi must go," he said.

"I think the African Union has the possibility of coming up with a useful proposition

that will push Kadhafi to give up power," he said.

Frattini did not provide details, but on Sunday he set out the broad outlines of a diplomatic plan to resolve the crisis in Libya that could include exile for Kadhafi.

More than 35 countries will attend a conference in London on Tuesday to map out a post-Kadhafi future for Libya.

Libya was an Italian colony between 1911 and 1942 and is Italy's top trade partner. Italian major ENI is the biggest foreign energy producer in Libya and Italian companies have billions of euros (dollars) in contracts there



People line up bodies after a huge fire and blasts at an ammunition plant in Abyan province, southern Yemen, which had been looted by Al-Qaeda, yesterday. The explosion killed more than 75 people on Monday, officials said, as parts of south Yemen eluded government control amid mounting protests.

AFP/Photo

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## “Hand over Your Heart” Endorsed by Minister of Social Affairs



Celebrities, artists, musicians and the Minister of Social Affairs, Economics and Culture -Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar- endorsed and actively participated in the “Man na Curazon” (Hand over Your Heart) event organized by Fundacion pa nos Comunidad (Foundation for our Community) charity organization. A multitude of people gathered at the South Beach Center to participate in the fundraising event. Minister Winklaar-Hooyboer herself assisted with filling out the standing order bank forms for those who desired to have a cash amount transferred from their bank account directly to the Foundation to aid the Foundation in their charity assistance to the needy in our community.

The entire event was a fundraising action to help those persons in our community who are in dire straits and with insufficient means to lead normal lives.

Last year the Foundation held a big charity activity adjacent our Post Office Building at which event the Minister also participated and donated many household ar-

ticles and clothing. At that event the minister also requested her bank to make a monthly automatic transfer of funds to the Foundation to support their work.

The government is also contributing by means of the increase of the “bijstand” (the welfare program) and by creating more infrastructure which will involve more people in the labor sector workforce. Single parents are now receiving an increase amount of the welfare monthly stipend for each child since last year, and as of this year the amount was increased by an additional Afls.100.

The government is aware of the fact that even this is not enough and that there is yet more to be done to improve the quality of life of those most in need in our community. Therefore, events such as the one recently held by “Hand over Your Heart,” where the private sector, and the community join hands and as it were put their hands over their hearts to contribute to the needs of the most needy in our community, are so vital to Aruba.

## Becoming Dutch to be made harder, dual nationality ruled out

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Everyone who wants to adopt Dutch nationality will soon have to give up their original nationality if that is legally possible, home affairs minister Piet Hein Donner said yesterday.

At the moment, for example, people who marry a Dutch citizen can keep their original nationality if they decide to become Dutch as well.

‘Dutch citizenship is the crown on participation and integration into society,’ Donner said in a briefing, outlining plans to toughen up the rules on becoming Dutch. The new measures were included in the coalition agreement.

The minister is also planning to introduce compulsory language tests for everyone. Some people are currently exempt.

New Dutch nationals will

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## NATO rejects Dutch mission in Afghanistan

Free newspaper reports that NATO has rejected the Dutch government's plan for an eight-week police training mission to Afghanistan. The Dutch training mission would be two weeks longer than the NATO standard and would include a strong emphasis on

human rights and on teaching people how to read and write.

The cabinet adjusted its original plan to win sufficient support in the Dutch parliament. The Green Left party in particular put strong pressure on the government to ‘improve’ on the standard for NATO training missions.

However, NATO spokesperson Captain Nicole Ashcroft says: “Adjustments to the training curriculum put

at risk the further standardisation of training courses that we are trying to achieve. Extending the training course from six to eight weeks brings complications. We must stick to one curriculum and one time span.”

Green Left and the D66 democrat party say they will not comment on the latest developments until after they have received an official reaction from the cabinet.

also have a family income of at least the minimum wage and show that they have at least two years work experience or have some sort of professional qualification.

The minister has opened an internet portal where everyone can comment on the proposed changes.

In four weeks time, the draft legislation will be sent to the council of state for its assessment.

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## Watty enjoys a very special birthday celebration in honor of the big 5-0



Fun games for the kids

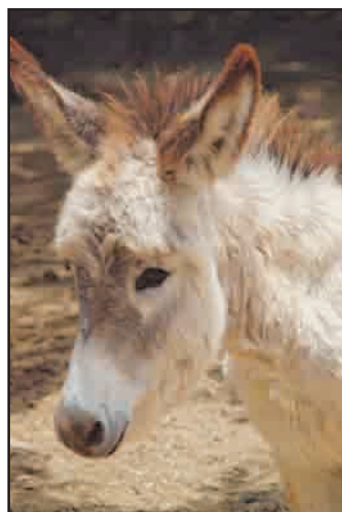
One of the very first residents of the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary in Santa Lucia celebrated his 50th birthday Sunday afternoon. Watty, the "old man" of the foundation's facility was spoiled the entire day as visitors fed him a steady stream of carrots, kibbles and apples, in honor of his special day, as he was allotted a pen close to the counter where treats were sold and all could come and offer their birthday wishes.

The open house party featured fun activities for all ages, a flea market, fundrais-

ing raffle, and a contest for the cutest birthday card. Families enjoyed a bite and a drink from "Watty's Pub" perused the bargains in "Watty's Shop" and even "Pinned the tail on Watty" to win prized donated by various sponsors. Watty's tale is rather unique. He was not a wild donkey; his master grew watermelons and used him to haul them to market. Unfortunately, he also swore vengeance on someone continually stealing his watermelons, and while sitting on his faithful mount, disposed of the thief, resulting in a long jail term for him and a donkey without anyone to



Happy B Day Watty



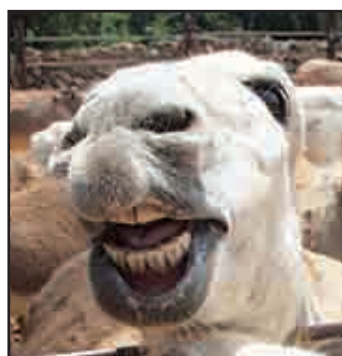
care for him. The sanctuary took him in when they first opened their doors, in 1997. Unfortunately, the sweet, friendly animal had been abused while living "on the streets," and bears the scars. Despite a mild heart condition, he is judged to be going strong, considering the average life span is 30 to 50 years.

Watty's tale of woe is a lesson there can still be a happy ending when caring people make an effort. The day dedicated to fundraising was a great success, and the volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary are grateful to all their sponsors and the community for their support.

by Rosalie Klein



Feeding the donkeys is fun for all ages



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## Santa Rosa building a petting zoo . . .

Continued from page 1



Meet a peacock

Project organizers project Sunday, April 17 as the official opening day of the new facility, as this is when Santa Rosa will conduct their traditional open house, which is linked to International Earth Day, April 22nd.

For one week prior to the official opening, there will be a week of workshops regarding living naturally and in balance with the environment, including practical methods of recycling and

home agriculture, which is being conducted by Fundacion Aruba Consciente and organized by its founder, Urvin Leest.

Two experts on the subject, Amber Vacci and Lisa Knoblauch, are coming from the U.S. to provide lectures and seminars for any wishing to attend, at no charge. More information and details on participation to follow.

by Rosalie Klein

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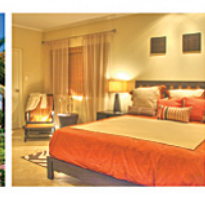
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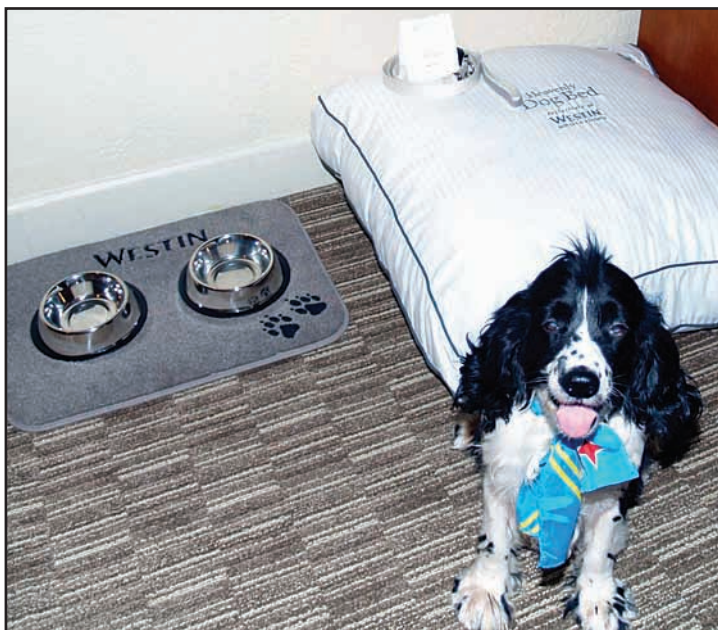
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## Cas Animal Cont'd Pet Friendly Resorts-Westin takes it all the way!



**Doggies get their own bed and welcome gift**

We continue the series on Cas Animal and their founder Kiki Arndt, who has made it her mission in life to rescue the stray and abused dogs and cats of Aruba. Kiki has been taking in animals off the streets, usually injured and needing psychological rehabilitation, since she first arrived 14 years ago and found two starving, abandoned dogs in the home she rented, nearly dying of thirst. Now she provides shelter for

71 dogs and 11 puppies in her home, and for 38 cats at the home of a friend.

One of the facilities that is at the top on her list for following through with their concern for the environment by humanely controlling the stray animal population that often take up residence at resorts is the Westin in Palm Beach.

Always a strong supporter of animal rescue foundations on Aruba, the Westin hosted

Kiki's first gala fundraiser last year, supporting her in her goal of raising \$200,000 needed to build a proper facility for all the strays, on land in Kibaima awarded her by the government. She is halfway to her goal, and this is after selling a great deal of her personal property, including two homes that provided her a living from the rental fees.

Dogs rule at Westin, which is the only resort on the island to welcome them on their premises as honored guests. Special rooms contain not only sleeping quarters for the masters, but a "heavenly doggy bed" for their beloved pets and a welcome gift for both. They have dog food menus, offer dog walking services and have dedicated games and activities that provide exercise and fun for both guest and canine companion.

Special Events Coordinator Ramiro Rafael explained that stray dogs on the grounds are an extremely rare occurrence, but feral cats will often take up residence and consequently have a litter of kittens. Westin has an incentive program for employees to adopt the cats, providing them with an initial



**Marketing Director Pat Donovan enjoys canine companionship at lunch**

supply of food to get them started to encourage the practice; Westin management is finding it quite successful, even Ramiro has one in his home.

Kiki's costs for care and feeding of the dogs and cats in her care are astronomical, and any and all donations towards expenses or building the shelter are appreciated. For information call 565-2130 or 742-8732. Kiki also maintains a free Animal Ambulance to transport sick or injured dogs

to the vet's office when their owners are unable to do so as well as rescuing dogs off the streets.

Contributions can be made through CMB Bank account # 25762110 under the name of Cas Animal; to follow the foundation's progress, visit their Facebook page. Next Week: Playa Linda Beach Resort, where owners insist that Aruban strays are provided for.

*by Rosalie Klein*





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## Apple sets new operating systems for iPhone, Mac



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Apple said yesterday that it will unveil the next generation operating systems for the iPhone and the Macintosh computer at its Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco in June.

The Cupertino, California-based tech giant said the annual event will be held June 6-10 at San Francisco's Moscone West.

"At this year's conference we are going to unveil the future of iOS and Mac OS," Apple senior vice president of worldwide product marketing

Philip Schiller said in a statement.

"If you are an iOS or Mac OS X software developer, this is the event that you do not want to miss," Schiller said.

Originally developed for the iPhone, iOS also now powers Apple's iPad tablet computer and the iPod Touch.

Apple said its engineers will host 100 technical sessions during the conference, which typically draws thousands of developers of programs for Macintosh computers, the iPhone, the iPod and the iPad.

## Wi-Fi cars hitting the information superhighway

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More cars are hitting the information superhighway thanks to new automotive Wi-Fi technology that allows vehicles to become rolling "hot spots."

Analysts say consumers are warming to the notion of more connectivity in their cars, with "apps" for information and entertainment just as they have with their smartphones or tablet computers.

"Initially, putting Internet access in the car sounds like a distraction and frivolous but as time passes it will become a part of our lives and we will feel uncomfortable not having access," said Jeff Kagan, an independent telecoms analyst.

"I think this is going to grow into a vibrant sector."

Market research firm iSuppli said it expects a surge in worldwide shipments of car Wi-Fi systems to 7.2 million units by 2017, from just 174,000 in 2010.

Wi-Fi has been around for several years as an aftermar-



Handout photo, courtesy of Ford Motor Company in 2009, shows how SYNC will broadcast a Wi-Fi signal using internet connectivity gained through the user's USB mobile broadband modem

ket Wi-Fi cars hitting the information superhighway

Ford has been offering Wi-Fi in selected models since 2010 and some form of Internet access is also offered by many other major automakers including General Motors, BMW, Audi, Saab and Chrysler.

In mid-March, Finnish telecom giant Nokia announced the launch of a Car Connectivity Consortium of 11 companies with common technical standards, including vehicle manufacturers Daimler, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Toyota, and Volkswagen.





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## Health & Living

### Indian 'fasting to death' custom faces court test

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – When 80-year-old Indian widow Kanwri Devi Surana suffered a mild heart attack last year, she pledged to fast herself to death in a religious practice known as "santhara".

Her distraught family says she gave up food and then water, and passed away in Kolkata 62 days after making her vow.

"It was very distressing for us," her granddaughter-in-law Ankur Surana, a fashion designer, told AFP. "She said god had come to her in a dream and told her to do this."

Santhara, a custom in India's minority Jain religion, is now at the heart of a court case that pits some modern attitudes against a tradition that has been likened to assisted suicide.

Lawyer Nikhil Soni approached the high court in the northern state of Rajasthan calling for a ban on santhara in 2006, describing the practice as unconstitutional and immoral.

Although fasting is a part of Indian culture, made famous by independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, who took up hunger strikes in protest against British rule, laws do not permit euthanasia or suicide.

But santhara has evaded legal intervention so far for being a religious custom dating back thousands of years.

Jains practise a strict pacifist creed, eating only selected vegetables, and taking care not to harm any living creatures.

Some wear masks across their mouths to avoid accidentally inhaling insects, and among devout Jains taking up santhara is held in high esteem.

"Santhara is not suicide," explained Jitendra Shah, director of the L.D. Institute of Indology in the western city of Ahmedabad. "People don't adopt it out of unhappiness, they do it consciously to attain enlightenment."

Those about to undergo santhara often make a public declaration of their intent by printing announcements in the local press and their families open their homes to visitors and religious figures wishing to pay tribute.

Many Jains insist that any ban would violate their religious rights.

## Australia targets Aborigines in anti-smoking drive

SYDNEY (AFP) – Australia this week launched its first national health TV advertising campaign aimed at Aboriginal people, hoping to halve the 50 percent of indigenous people who smoke by 2018.

The government has already banned all shops from displaying cigarette packets and said the Aus\$4 million

campaign (\$4.1 million US) would target the fact that 20 percent of Aborigines die from smoking related diseases.

"The statistics are alarming, but the message is simple: break the chain and give up a habit that will kill you," Health Minister Nicola Roxon said in launching the advertisements.

Smoking is the number one

cause of chronic diseases such as cancer and heart problems among Aborigines, who have a much shorter life span than other Australians.

"Smoking kills. It's that simple," Indigenous Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon said.

The television commercials, which feature a young

woman reflecting on her experience of having lost family to smoking-related disease, are the first indigenous-specific ads as part of a national health campaign.

Australian Aborigines die up to 11.5 years earlier than their non-indigenous counterparts and are twice as likely to die as infants.



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## Tiara Air has two new pilots



Tiara Air is very happy to announce that two new pilots have joined the Tiara Air Crew. In November 2010 Tiara Air sponsored two young Aruban pilots Mr. Rodinho Rodriguez and Mr. Joswain Werleman to USA so they can accumulate more flight hours to come into remark to start practice on the SD-3 planes.

In February 2011, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Werleman

went to New York for their training and simulator exam of which both passed successfully.

They trained their fly techniques under the supervision of an instructor to accomplish regulatory flights and soon they will be flying alongside Tiara Air Flight Captains.

Tiara Air is very happy to contribute to local young professionals and their profes-

sional career in the aviation world and wishes the pilots lots of success.

Tiara Air is offering regional flights from Aruba to Curacao, Bonaire, Riohacha Colombia, Punto Fijo and Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Photo shows Tiara Air Director Mr. Alejandro Muyale, with the new pilots, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Werleman.

## ArkeFly wins Schiphol Aviation Award



Recently, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol hosted its annual Schiphol Aviation Awards, recognising exceptional performance among airlines. ArkeFly won the award in the category "Airline of the Year 2010 North & South America."

Monique van Tulder Kuipers, Manager Ground Services at ArkeFly proudly accepted the award at Arendshoeve in Aalsmeer.

The airline won the award because of the growing the number of destinations across the continents and the increase of frequency flights to North and South America.

Says Monique van Tulder Kuipers: "This award is a great honor and a reward for our efforts as an airline. We continue to work to improve service and expand our destinations and frequencies each season. This summer for example, ArkeFly will fly, for the first time to Miami and Orlando; we will also resume the route to Toronto and increase flight to Mexico and

the ABC islands. The fleet will also be renewed and expanded. Since the inauguration of ArkeFly six years ago, the airline has gone through a major, positive development. We are very grateful to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol for

this award and extremely proud.

Schiphol hands out the Aviation Awards annually to companies that over the past year have made an outstanding contribution to the airport in terms of passengers or cargo. The seven categories are: Europe 2010 Airline of the Year, Airline of the Year 2010 North & South America, Asia Airline of the Year 2010, Airline of the Year 2010 Middle East & Africa, Ground Handling Award 2010 Passenger and Cargo Award 2010 and Most Promising Airline 2011.



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# Increase in water and electricity tariffs inevitable

*WEB continues evaluating this situation; increases can be expected*



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's water and electricity plant, WEB Aruba N.V. advised the public to be aware that alarming developments in the Middle East will influence oil

prices. Until now, there is no indication of any immediate alleviation of the situation; the consequences for Aruba will be that WEB will be forced to increase the water and electricity tariffs.

WEB management, since October 1 of last year, has been following the developments regarding oil prices very closely. Oil prices began to rise, which affects WEB operations. Oil prices increased drastically in the last three months by almost 20%, forcing the decision by WEB management to increase tariffs.

In the last years, WEB has made some investments to reduce fuel oil consumption and will continue doing its utmost to prevent an increase.

These are some of the recent improvements:

1. Change in the boiler system to more efficient motors RECIP I and II

2. Change from the AQUA CHEM water production system to the more efficient technology of Reverse Osmosis, SWRO-I

3. Construction of a windmill at Vader Piet

4. Recent major investments to expand the production capacity through the Recip-III and Reverse Osmosis SWRO-II plants. These projects are still in construction.

5. WEB together with the Aruba government, Utilities N.V. and Valero are studying the possibility to change from fuel oil to gas

6. There are further studies going on for more 30MW wind mills and for 5MW solar energy to be deployed.

All these projects enhance WEB's efficiency and con-



Construccion SWRO Fase II

tributes towards reducing its fuel expenses.

Management and personnel of WEB Aruba N.V. are working very hard on the projects and energy alternatives but until they are not realized, fuel oil prices around the world will affect consumer costs on Aruba.

WEB management is very

well aware of the detrimental effects of increased water and energy tariffs for the Aruban community and is doing everything to prevent this or keep increased to a minimum until the price of fuel oil goes down and remains stable. Until then consumers should be aware of the situation which indicates that an increase is inevitable.





## COMICS



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## PICKLES



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## MOMMA



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## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Chance \_\_\_\_\_ lifetime (2 wds.)
4. Drug-regulating org.
7. Hockey's Bobby \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ mater
12. Monthly expense
14. Narc's org.
15. Ship's bottom
16. In that event (2 wds.)
17. Frequently, in poems
18. Reasonable
19. Attorneys
21. Most unexcited
23. Nose around
26. On-line person
27. Tobacco unit
31. Parsley bit
33. Biblical "yours"
34. "\_\_\_\_\_ Excited" (2 wds.)
35. South Seas isle
38. Liquid measures (abbr.)
39. Certain Scottish plaids
42. Sacred beetles
44. Ayres and Wallace
48. Through \_\_\_\_\_

## DOWN

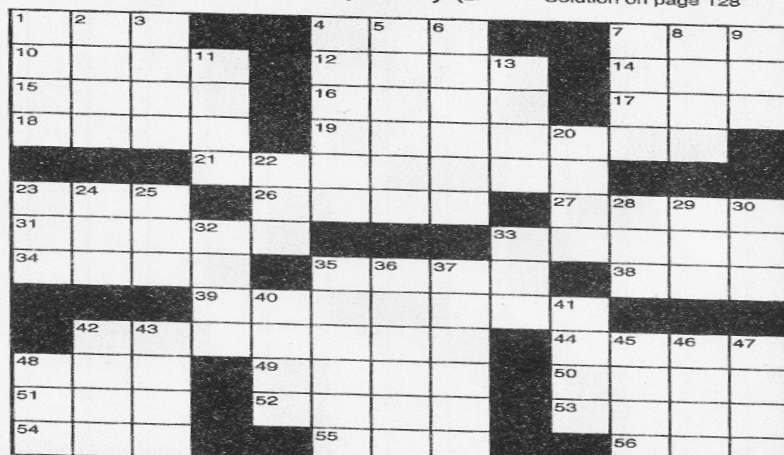
1. Adult acorns
2. Fido's nuisance
3. Prayer word
4. No \_\_\_\_\_ (plain)
5. Slander
6. Respond
7. Stench
8. Umps' counterparts
50. TV's "\_\_\_\_\_ Chef"
51. Middle (abbr.)
52. Measured portion
53. Opera star
54. Uncle or cousin (abbr.)
55. City rds.
56. Tavern barrel

9. Maze rodent
11. Baldwin of "The Aviator"
13. Hasbro products
20. Engrave with acid
22. Popular vacation mo.
23. Frat letter
24. LP abbr.
25. Decade divisions (abbr.)
28. Shoot from the \_\_\_\_\_
29. Toiling insect
30. Jazzman Montgomery
32. Small quantity
33. Can material
35. Audience cheers
36. Optimally (2 wds.)

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Solution on page 128



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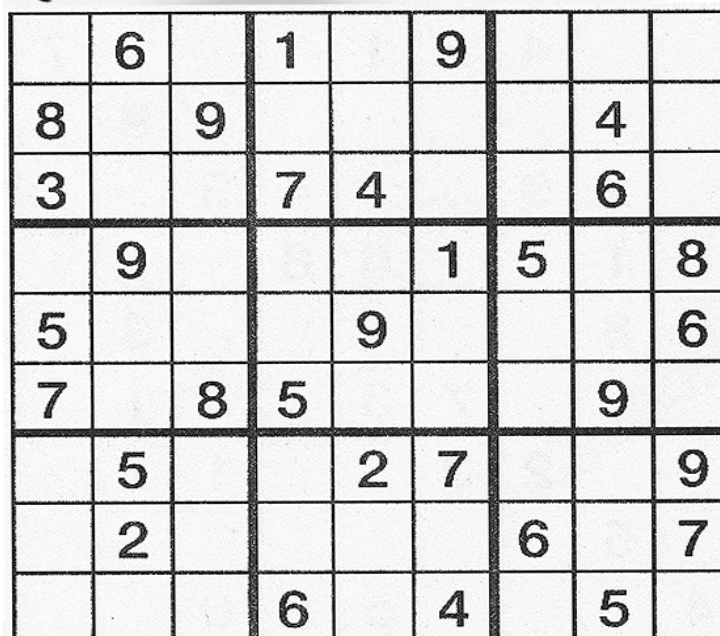
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SOLUTION

8	9	2	4	1	9	7	8	6
7	1	9	5	8	6	3	2	4
6	8	4	2	2	3	9	9	1
4	6	1	2	9	5	8	3	7
9	2	7	3	6	8	1	4	5
8	3	5	1	7	4	2	6	9
2	9	6	8	4	7	5	1	3
1	4	3	9	9	2	6	7	8
5	7	8	6	3	1	4	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### BRIEFS:

#### eBay to buy GSI Commerce for \$2.4 bn



NEW YORK (AFP) – Online auction giant eBay announced Monday that it has agreed to acquire GSI Commerce, a provider of electronic commerce and interactive marketing services, for \$29.25 a share or \$2.4 billion.

The San Jose, California-based eBay said the acquisition will be financed with cash and debt and is expected to close in the third quarter of the year. John Donahoe, eBay's president and chief executive, said the acquisition of GSI "will significantly strengthen our ability to connect buyers and sellers worldwide."

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Tokyo nuclear operator seeking French help: minister

PARIS (AFP) – Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO), operator of Japan's stricken Fukushima nuclear plant, is seeking help from France to tackle the "critical" situation, Industry Minister Eric Besson said Monday.

"TEPCO, for the first time, I'm pleased to say ... has asked for help from French industrial concerns," the minister told RTL radio, specifying French energy giant EDF, nuclear group Areva and CEA, the atomic energy commission.

Besson said the current situation at Fukushima, where highly radioactive water has leaked from a reactor turbine building following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, was "extremely critical".

The water, found in an underground tunnel linked to the number two reactor at the Fukushima plant, showed a radiation reading of more than 1,000 millisieverts per hour, a TEPCO official told reporters in Japan.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Zimbabwe to take over all foreign-owned mining firms

HARARE (AFP) – All foreign-owned mining companies in Zimbabwe must sell majority stakes to locals within six months, under new rules released Monday that clouded the nation's drive for foreign investment. The new rules marked the latest attempt by long-ruling President Robert Mugabe to squeeze cash out of the mining industry, after last month hiking exploration fees by 2,000 percent to one million dollars. The controversial Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act issued last year required all foreign firms valued at more than \$500,000 to sell 51 percent stakes to locals.

The new rules published Monday expand the law to include all mining companies valued at more than one dollar.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Euro gains on dollar thanks to ECB comment

LONDON, England (AFP) – The euro rose against the dollar on Monday following a comment by the head of the European Central Bank seen as indicating a rate hike is imminent, even though concerns about the eurozone remain strong.

In London late afternoon trade, the European single currency rose to \$1.4106 from \$1.4081 in New York late on Friday. The dollar advanced to 81.68 yen from 81.31 yen.

The euro had been sliding against the dollar for most of the day Monday as investors continued to react to comments last Friday by a senior US Federal Reserve official raising the prospect of higher interest rates in the world's biggest economy.

However, the market shifted after comments by Eu-

ropean Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet "that were interpreted as suggesting a rate hike was inevitable at next month's (policy) meeting," said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

Trichet's hint at the beginning of the month that the ECB would raise rates at its April meeting has supported the euro the past few weeks.

However, the European currency remains weighed down by worries about eurozone debt.

A two-day European Union summit concluded on week-end in Brussels with expressions of support for Portugal after parliament voted out the government in protest at its latest austerity package.

At the same time, EU leaders, most notably German Chancellor Angela Merkel,

called on Portugal to abide by the targets already agreed with Brussels in order to stabilise its strained public finances.

"The outcome of the EU summit was disappointing in the sense that a resolution to the plans for a bigger and better (rescue fund) has been delayed until June," said Rabobank analyst Jane Foley.

"Also, Portugal entered into political crisis which triggered a round of credit ratings downgrades and probably moves the country closer to requesting an EU bailout," she added.

Standard & Poor's warned Monday that it could further downgrade Portugal's credit rating by a notch this week, after lowering it by two levels last week following the government's resignation.

The yield, or return on investment, on Portugal's 10-year bonds rose sharply to 7.818 percent, coming off a record 7.94 percent during the day but still well up from 7.677 percent on week-end.

Chancellor Merkel's week-end defeat in German state elections also weighed on sentiment.

"This defeat has raised concerns that German politicians may not have the support of the German people and this could call into question Germany's role as Europe's cash machine with respect to the bailout fund and any future agreements," Hewson said.

The dollar also slumped to a record low against the Australian dollar as the US growth data boosted investor appetite for risky assets.

## Post-oil transport needs 1.5-trillion-euro overhaul



#### EU commissioner for Transport Siim Kallas

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) – Europe's transport network will need a 1.5-trillion-euro private sector overhaul to meet the needs of a post-oil world and slash carbon emissions, the European Commission said.

A new strategy for the sector launched by the commission aims to "dramatically reduce Europe's dependence on imported oil and cut carbon emissions in transport by 60 percent by 2050," the EU executive said.

But ideas for getting there put forward by the European Union's transport commis-

sioner Siim Kallas attracted harsh criticism from the auto sector, small businesses and environmental campaigners who said they were pie in the sky.

Kallas set out what he called "very radical, very ambitious targets" established by the EU executive in a white paper on road, rail and sea network needs projected for 2050.

His vision included "close to zero fatalities" on Europe's roads, "zero" petrol or diesel cars in cities, and half of all intercity passenger and freight transport moving to rail or waterways.

"We are talking about the necessity of investment of 1.5 trillion euros," or \$2.1 trillion, Kallas said.

He insisted he was taking his non-binding, non-legislative plans to industry and the private sector "with a certain hope" despite the "huge, huge and complicated question" posed by future public finance volumes expected to become increasingly limited.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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## Taj Mahal Restaurant in Oranjestad is an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.





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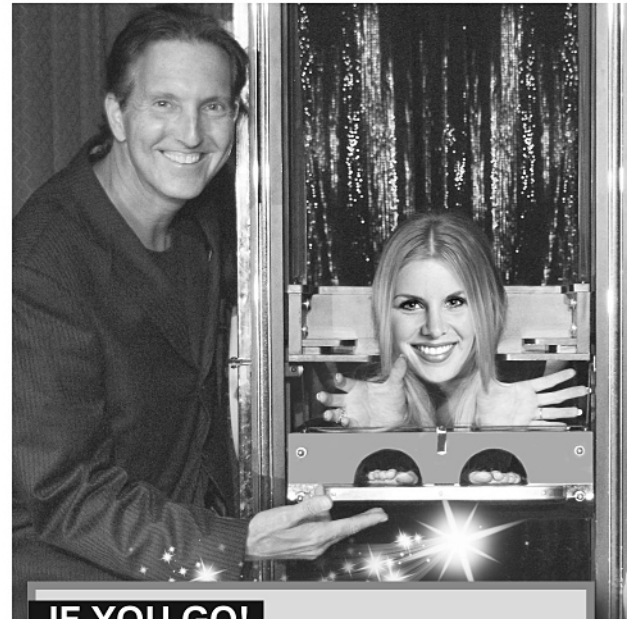
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## Cheeky tennis poster girl revealed 35 years on



**Fiona Walker, 53, poses with a picture of herself as the eighteen year-old 'Athena tennis poster girl'**

LONDON, England (AFP) — The woman in a hitched-up tennis dress whose cheeky pose adorned countless boys' bedrooms has revealed she had little interest in the sport and was wearing her father's plimsolls for the shot.

Fiona Walker was 18 when she became the sun-dappled subject of the "Tennis Girl" poster on a court in Birmingham, central England, in 1976.

Athena bought the rights to the poster, more than two million were sold and it became one of the iconic images of the

1970s.

Now she has posed with the original image -- albeit more soberly dressed this time -- to promote an exhibition of tennis as an art form.

Walker, now a 52-year-old freelance illustrator with three children, said her then boyfriend Martin Elliott was a photography student when he persuaded her to pose for the shot.

She was not keen on tennis, borrowed the footwear from her father and wore a tennis dress of a "friend of a friend". The balls on the court

were ones she used to throw for her pet dog.

Walker revealed that despite the huge popularity of the poster, she has remained almost anonymous -- and received no royalties.

"I think my children tell people that it's me but most people don't believe it," she said.

"I was very naive and was paid nothing, and I think it's the biggest-selling poster ever.

"My mother has a very faded copy in what used to be my father's study and I just have it in the form of a very small postcard."

She added: "It never ceases to make me smile when I see it sometimes. I see it in very strange places."

"It has a place in the history of tennis. I think Martin Elliott would be very proud of the fact that his picture is in the exhibition," she added.

Elliott died last year.

The picture goes on show at the Barber Institute in Birmingham on May 27, less than a mile from the garden of a villa in suburban Edgbaston, where the sport was first played.

## Jackie Chan, HK stars to raise funds for Japan



**Jacie Chan seen here in the mega-film Rush hour 3**

HONG KONG, China (AFP) - Action hero Jackie Chan and other Hong Kong celebrities will hold a charity concert on April 1 to raise funds for disaster-stricken Japan, where more than 27,000 are dead or missing.

"We as members of the entertainment industry wish to bring hope and support to the people of Japan," said Chan, one of the initiators of the concert, in a statement.

The veteran movie star will be joined by performers from Taiwan, China, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia for the concert at Hong Kong's Victoria Park.

The event will feature a

theme song called "Succumb not to sorrow", which is based on a popular Japanese poem that praises the tenacity of Japanese people in the face of hardship.

The organising committee, which comprises 19 art and film groups, said they aimed to raise funds for relief packs -- that include food, drinking water, personal care products and blanket -- for up to 80,000 disaster victims.

More than 27,000 people are dead or missing since a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit northeast Japan on March 11, also crippling a nuclear plant.



# Brits unfazed as Australia rule track cycling worlds



Australia's Anna Meares (C) celebrates on the podium after winning the gold medal during the Womens Kerin final, at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Apeldoorn.

APELDOORN, Netherlands (AFP) — Britain's Olympic track cycling hopefuls were keeping a stiff upper lip Sunday as rivals Australia capped a hugely successful campaign at the world championships.

Heading into the final day of competition Dave Brailsford's Britain team -- who won seven of the 10 Olympic track golds in Beijing in 2008 -- had only one gold to be proud of, from the women's team pursuit.

Australia had six in the bag already, and after the final four events they added two more -- from the women's keirin and Madison -- to walk away with eight titles and 11 medals in total from 19 finals.

From a purely Olympic perspective, Britain fared not too badly winning medals in seven events while Australia

won gold in six -- the team pursuit, women's sprint and team sprint, women's and men's keirin and men's omnium.

France, thanks mainly to their men's sprint team and individual sprint winner Gregory Bauge, finished second on two gold and a total of seven while Belarus were third with two gold.

Britain finished fourth with one gold, three silver and five bronze for a tally which, at least to outsiders, may raise a few eyebrows 15 months out from London 2012.

Although Australia have signalled their return to the world stage after Anna Meares won their sole track medal, a silver from the women's sprint, in Beijing, Britain seem unfazed.

As they did in the lead-up to the 2008 Games, Brailsford will expect his team to raise their game for the Olympic challenge at home. With the backdrop of London 2012 looming, that means he believes Australia's results here are "irrelevant".

"If you took the emotion out of the situation, it's irrelevant," he said Sunday.

"If it was different nations would we be saying the same?"

"What's the difference? You've got to beat the person on the line, regardless what their nation is."

Meares leaves the championships having completed a clean sweep of the sprint events, adding the keirin crown to the team sprint and sprint titles she won earlier.

All three are Olympic events.

Although Britain did not

use their top pursuit team in an event won by Australia here, they are likely to be the team to beat when Bradley Wiggins and Geraint Thomas return in time for the Games.

Triple Olympic champion Sir Chris Hoy was ousted in the semi-finals by Englishman Jason Kenny, leading to suggestions the Scot has dropped down the pecking order. Only one sprinter is allowed per country at the Games.

Despite both Hoy and Victoria Pendleton relinquishing their respective keirin and sprint titles to Australian rivals here, Brailsford added he expects both to raise their game in the run-up to London.

"As these individuals get towards the end of their careers, they need the big stage to make all the little sacrifices," he added.


Pendleton said after being ousted from the sprint she would return "with a vengeance" to challenge Meares in 2012, at the world championships and Olympic Games.

After her keirin elimination in the second round Sunday, the 30-year-old Englishwoman tried to put her mediocre championships into perspective.

"I'm definitely under par and she's in the form of her life. It's difficult to compare," said Pendleton.

"I'm still really positive about the Olympics and getting there in the best form and that is the most important thing."

"I'm excited about the Olympics and maybe I'm losing excitement about the Worlds."



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## Cricket: Lorgat hopes semi-final builds Indo-Pak bridge

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AFP) - ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat yesterday hoped the high-profile World Cup semi-final between arch-rivals Pakistan and India will build a bridge between the two nations.

Title favourites India take on Pakistan at Mohali on Wednesday -- the first meeting between the two teams on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based militants.

Tickets have been sold out in advance and security ramped up with Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani due to watch the match as a guest of Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

Lorgat believes the match could build a bridge between the two nations who have not played a bilateral series since 2008 attacks.

"Cricket is there to build bridges," said Lorgat. "If it does than it would be a just reward for the beautiful game of cricket."

Lorgat said India playing in Pakistan would be massive, irrespective of whether it overshadows the World Cup.

"Certain countries, when they play, it's romanticism, it's massive and wherever



they play it's big, so we like to see cricket providing that platform to India and Pakistan.

"As someone said 'cricket diplomacy is better than no diplomacy'."

Cricket diplomacy was first used by former Pakistan President General Zia-ul Haq who toured India mid-way through a Test series in 1987.

General Pervez Musharraf also used cricket diplomacy when he toured India to watch a match in 2005, holding talks on the sidelines of the match.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since their independence from the British rule in 1947.

They have endured strained relations since the Mumbai attacks, although there have been efforts to put relations back on track with talks at secretary level.

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## Stosur slammed in Miami by Sharapova

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Australian fourth seed Samantha Stosur took a 6-4, 6-1 loss to revitalised Maria Sharapova yesterday to exit in the fourth round of the ATP and WTA Miami Masters.

The Australian who lost the French Open final last year to Francesca Schiavone suffered with five double-faults and no aces in a contest lasting 81 minutes.

US-based Russian Sharapova refused to give Stosur an early birthday present as the Australian, who turns 27



**Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a forehand to Samantha Stosur**

tomorrow, was broken five times.

Stosur's loss left her short of her performances at the last two editions at Crandon Park, where she reached the quarter-finals.

Two-time Miami finalist Sharapova saved three of the four break points she faced as clouds gathered over the stadium prior to possible forecast rain.

## Blatter orders Brazil to speed up work for 2014

GENEVA, Switzerland — FIFA president Sepp Blatter warned Brazil yesterday that they needed to speed up preparations to host the 2014 World Cup.

"I would like to tell my Brazilian colleagues about the 2014 World Cup, it's tomorrow, the Brazilians think it's just the day after tomorrow," he told reporters.

Brazil's Sports minister Orlando Silva replied by inviting Blatter to the South American country to see the work going on for himself.

"I'm convinced he'll be reassured that Brazil will stage a very good World Cup," Silva told a news conference in Sao Paulo.

## Celtics dig down to hold off Timberwolves

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (AFP) — The Boston Celtics, staring at another damaging defeat, dug in defensively and emerged with an 85-82 NBA victory over Minnesota.

Paul Pierce on the weekend scored 23 points with seven rebounds and Kevin Garnett added 13 points with 13 rebounds against the team he once led.

Boston, who surrendered a 13-point lead in a home loss to Charlotte in their last outing, led Minnesota by 25 in the second quarter but had fallen behind by the middle of the fourth period before Pierce and Garnett came through.

Michael Beasley had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who were missing All-Star Kevin Love for the third straight game because of a strained left groin.

A three-pointer by Anthony Tolliver gave the Timberwolves an unlikely 73-72 lead with just over five minutes remaining.

Pierce responded with a three-pointer to take back the lead. Garnett added a turnaround jump shot and another basket to hold off Minnesota.

The Celtics were without starting point guard Rajon Rondo, who strained his right little finger in practice on Saturday.

Delonte West started in his place and scored eight points with five assists, helping the Celtics avoid their first three-game losing streak of the season.

That was their sixth defeat in 10 games, a lackluster stretch that let surging Chicago snag the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

  
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## Sprint star Thanou denies charges in perjury trial



Former Greek sprint star Katerina Thanou, seen here in 2007.

ATHENS (AFP) – Former Greek sprint star Katerina Thanou, on trial for perjury stemming from one of the biggest scandals of the Athens 2004 Olympics, on Monday denied the charges in her first court testimony on the case.

"I demand justice," Thanou said according to a court source and argued that she had been unfairly vilified by the media.

The 100m silver medallist at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, ejected on the eve of the Athens 2004 Games alongside fellow Greek sprint star Costas Kenteris for missing a doping test, insisted that a motorcycle accident caused the no-show.

It is a claim the athletes, now respectively 35 and 37 and retired, have maintained from the start.

Thanou and Kenteris, the 200m gold medal winner in the Sydney Olympics, are accused of faking the accident and of having encouraged medical staff to issue false certificates on their behalf.

At the time, a forensic surgeon who separately examined the athletes found no evidence of their claimed injuries.

Thanou on Monday maintained her long-standing line of defence, saying that both she and Kenteris had turned off their cellphones and found out about the missed doping test hours later at their home of their coach Christos Tzekos.

She said Kenteris grabbed the keys to Tzekos' motorcycle and they intended to ride back to the Olympic Village, but failed to put helmets on.

After their alleged fall, they were helped to a hospital by a passing driver with Kenteris complaining of a head injury, she said.

Tzekos, who is also on trial for allegedly importing and trading banned sports substances, has also dismissed the charges and claims the whole affair was engineered by the International Olympic Committee.

If found guilty, the athletes face a maximum sentence of under a year in prison, which will probably be suspended and can be bought off.

The trial, which opened in January after four years of deferral, resumes on April 5.

## Mistress says Bonds admitted using steroids after body changed

SAN FRANCISCO, California – Baseball home run king Barry Bonds admitted using steroids that damaged his health and changed parts of his body, including his testicles, his former mistress Kimberly Bell testified in his perjury trial yesterday.

Bell told the court Bonds

suffered a range of problems, including impotence, hair loss and acne, and he confessed to using steroids when she quizzed him about an elbow injury he was struggling to overcome.

"He said it was because of the steroids, because it somehow caused the muscle and

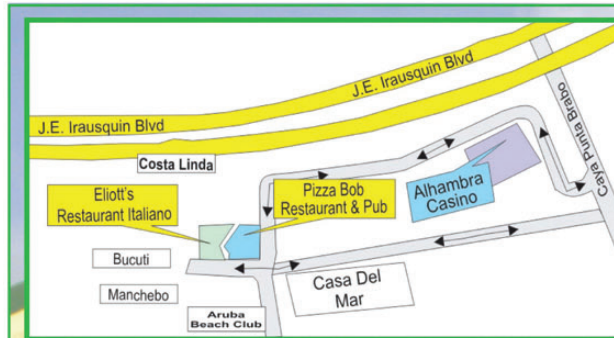
tendons to grow faster than the joint could handle, it sort of blew out," she testified.

Bonds has always denied knowingly using steroids or human growth hormone but has been charged with lying to a grand jury in 2003. The 46-year-old has pleaded not guilty.

Bell testified that Bonds

became increasingly irritable and repeatedly threatened to "cut off my head and leave me in a ditch."

She also said his testicles took on an "unusual" shape, and Bonds asked her if she thought other people would notice the bloating of other parts of his body.



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